

And 7 of the 29 spell it N-a-p-s Creek . The dates of the Grants range from 1795 to 1822.

After the formation of Pocahontas County , there are recorded in the Recorded in the Land Grant books of Pocahontas County , 44 Land Grants or Patents Issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia, to land Grantees situate on the Knapps-Creek and 15 of the Grants spell it K-n-a-p- Creek , and 29 spell it N-a-p-s Creek The dates of the Grants range from 1822 to 1860.

Of the 73 land Grants Issued on the waters of Knapps Creek 37 spell it with a " K " and 36 spell it with an " N " The vacant lands on the Knapps Creek include were all taken up prior the Civil War. This does not include the Grants issued ~~issued~~ while under the regime of Augusta County, which was then referred to as being on Ewings Creek . While under the regime of Bath County a Grant was issued to Andrew Reid bearing date of 1794 , and gives the local description as being on the waters of Ewings Run ; and to Archibald Stewart bearing date of 1800 on the waters of Ewings Creek , which appears to be about the last of the Grants that mention Ewings Creek.

The first Survey made in Pocahontas County was made by General <sup>Andrew</sup> Lewis . bearing date of October the 11th 1751 for 480 Acres situated on both sides of the Greenbrier River and states being at the mouth of Ewing Creek. And no doubt <sup>that</sup> but this the first writting of Ewing Creek . This land Grant of Andrew Lewis is found recorded in Greenbrier Grant Book No 1 at Page 3.

The old land surveyors would constantly refer to Knapps Creek " as once called Ewings Creek " It appears that the old surveyors who made the surveys for the pioneer settlers on the Knapps Creek , were of a different opinion as to the spelling of the " Knapp? As a matter of fact it was shifted from " Ewings " Creek to Knapps Creek in honor of a man by the name of Nap Gregory or a man by the name of Caleb Knapp. There appears to be a misunderstanding among the early settlers , and the settlers of the Knapps Creek Valley , even at the present time as to which of the two should have the honor of being the name-sake of the Knapps-Creek; It appears that neither of them owned land on the Knapps Creek .



There are many very interesting letters written in regard to the name of Knapps Creek ; and the following letters are hereby submitted for their consideration in regard to <sup>the</sup> name of Knapps Creek, which has been a question of argument.

In November 1940<sup>28th</sup>, the following was written in the Pocahontas Times .to - Mr Cal Price , and his reply.

Dear Mr Price:

Some writers state that Knapps Creek was named for Knapp Gregory, an early settler in that locality , while others claim that it was named for a man named Knapp who came into that section prior to 1749.

I would like to know if you have any information on the subject as to which might be correct . If it was named ~~from~~ from a Mr, Knapp, do you know the ~~Christian~~ Christian name? There was a Caleb Knapp in Greenbrier County , as early as 1789, but I do not <sup>know</sup> his parentage.

Yours very truly.

Wilma Beard Harper.

Elkins WVa.

The reply to my cousin Wilma Beard Harper is, that Knapps Creek ~~was~~ was named for Naphtal~~em~~ Gregory; You will find his name in the Chalkley Records of Augusta County. If I remember right, it will be in the 1760,s

In the Earliest records \_ Col. John Stuart in 1751- the name is Ewings Creek. In the Lewis survey of that date at Marlinton, a line calls for passing ~~o~~ over the Ewing House , some where between the low place ~~be~~ on Buckley Mountain, near Stillwell to a point not far from the residence of Z.S.Smith Jr,

Later records refer to the Creek by the name of Naps; later records have it Knapps Creek .

Some time about a century ago the family of Caleb Knapp moved to Pocahontas County from Greenbrier County . I fix the time by the fact that one of the daughters of Caleb Knapp ~~was~~ Mrs Ellen Buzzard , was born in Greenbrier county, she died a few years since at the advanced age of 103 years.

Naphtal~~em~~ Gregory had his hunters camp on Naps Creek. I have always had the impression his camp was near the present site of the Westminster Church.

The <sup>is</sup> tradition that Naphtal~~em~~ Gregory was killed by white outlaws dressed up



He was in camp at the time, and his dogs were out chasing a bear. The robbers dragged the body some distance from the camp to hide it in a sink hole. Before the body was disposed of, the pack of dogs returned from the chase, took up the trail, and attacked the robbers so fiercely that they had to kill the dogs in self defense.

How the particulars of the crime ever leaked out was never explained to me. Maybe one of the robbers told about it in later years.

What I do know is I have been assured by ancient colored people, that in the full of the hunters moon those who are born with a cowl, can hear Gregorys dogs running a trail in full cry, to end in howls and growls at the sink hole. "

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The following letter is from the Hon A.E Ewing, of Grand Haven Michigan.  
printed in the Pochontas Times Dec 12th 1840.

Dear Mr, Price:

I was interested in Wilma Beard Harper,s inquiry about the godfather of Knapps Creek, and your reply in The Times of November 28th.

Evidently some geographer of pioneer days became confused in his nomenclature. Just likely Napthalem Gregory was only known as " Nap " I submit that " Naptha" would have been more illuminating. The geographer who initiated the name Knapp, either ignored the Nap Gregory,s right to the honor, or accorded the honor to Caleb Knapp or some othe Knapp.

As you say Caleb Knapp is listed as an old timer of Greenbrier and Pocahontas. I do not know the geneology of the Knapps of Western Virginia, bu I know there was an Abraham Knapp who married Rachel Cherington, daughter of William and Margaret Hank-Cherington. Not positive, but I believe they were Rockingham County people, They moved into Greenbrier County, just when I do npt know. They had a son, Moses Knapp who was born in 1812 and who married Eliza Hank, daughter of Caleb Hank. Caleb Hank was a Rockinghamer and moved to Greenbrier county, now Monroe with his parents about 1789 and to Gallia county Ohio, in 1846, where he settled among his Cherington kinsman.

William C. Gaines, 75, a prosperous farmer of Lathrope, Missouri, is a grand son



of said Moses Knapp. I do not know if any of the above named Knapps ever lived on Knapps ( Nap ) Creek.

Pardon my family pride for suggesting that Ewings Creek ought to be made the official designation of the much named stream. The earliest official mention ever made of it was " Ewings Creek " The man who gave it that name was James Ewing a Scotch Irishman born about 1715 , and who came to Western Virginia about 1736. He had a farm on Jackson river near the influx of Muddy Creek Run only a few miles from the divide and the head waters of the stream that bore his name as late as 1770 when he sold his claim to Moses Moore for two steel traps and two pounds sterling, according to historian Price. It is believed that his family, two sons, John and William, and three daughters, were born on the Jackson River farm , and that they moved to their new home across the the divide shortly after 1760 and resided on the stream which bore his name until about 1770 when he sold out to Moses Moore and moved on down to the Swago farm lands now known as the McClintic farm . I picture my great grand father James Ewing as not only as a farmer , but much of a hunter and trapper, and that he chose the flats of said creek as a home for his boys and girls while he brought home deers, bears, fish and fur.

As long as there is a question <sup>about the</sup> names of "Knapp" and "Nap", why not return to the original name and call it Ewing Creek in honor of a sturdy old pioneer, who did his bit toward the early settlement of present Pocahontas County

A.E.Ewing.

Grand Haven , Michagan.